



LOUDON POLICE DEPARTMENT LOUDON, TN



Chapter 3

Subject: Chemical Weapons	Effective Date: 02/07/2006	Revised Date: 03/19/2020
Title: Chemical Weapons Policy	Pages: 3	Distribution: All Officers
Cross Reference:	Chief of Police Approval:	

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of chemical weapons.

This directive will consist of the following sections:

- I. Policy
- II. Procedures

I. POLICY

- a. The Loudon Police Department has authorized the use of chemical weapons to provide the officers with additional use-of-force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest or other enforcement situations. It is the policy of the Loudon Police Department that officers may use chemical weapons when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth here and in the Loudon Police Department's use-of-force/response to resistance policy.

II. PROCEDURES

a. Authorization

- i. Only officers who have completed the prescribed course of instruction on the use of chemical weapons are authorized to carry the device.
- ii. Officers whose normal duties/assignments may require them to make arrests or supervise arrestees are authorized to carry departmentally authorized chemical weapons while on duty.
- iii. Uniformed officers shall carry only departmentally authorized chemical weapons canisters in the prescribed manner on the duty belt. Non-uniformed officers shall carry chemical weapons in alternative devices as authorized by the Loudon Police Department.

b. Usage Criteria

- i. Chemical weapons are considered a use of force and shall be employed in a manner consistent with the Loudon Police Department's use-of-force/response to resistance policy.
- ii. Chemical weapons may be used when
 1. Verbal dialogue has failed to bring about the subjects compliance
 2. The suspect has signaled intention to resist officer's effort to make an arrest.
 3. Whenever practical and reasonable, officers should issue a verbal warning prior to using chemical weapons.
 4. An officer may use deadly force to protect himself/herself from the use or threatened use of chemical weapons when the officer reasonably believes

that deadly force will be used against him/her if he/she becomes incapacitated

5. Use of chemical weapons after the suspect is restrained may be used to prevent injury to suspect or others.
- iii. Usage procedures
 1. Whenever possible, officers should be upwind from the suspect before using chemical weapons.
 2. An officer should maintain a safe distance from the suspect of between 2 and 10 feet.
 - iv. Accidental discharge of a chemical weapon involving an individual shall be reported.